IN THE CLAIMS:

1. 1.   (Cancelled).

1. 2.   (Currently Amended)   A mail piece tracking system including:

2.   A.   one or more servers that perform the operations of:

3.   i.   acquiring information from one or more mail piece sources, postal

4. services or delivery companies, including in such information, one or more user identifiers,

5. and from said information creating linked information for each mail piece containing at least

6. one of: information about the mail piece, delivery status information, address and delivery

7. particulars, a digital copy of the mail piece, a summary of the mail piece, and an excerpt from

8. the mail piece;

9.   ii.   associating said linked information for each mail piece with one or

10. more respective user identifiers, thereby providing the a user, by its user identifier, with the

11. capability to track and trace mail pieces sent to or from one or more addresses;

12.   iii.   receiving one or more messages from the senders of the respective

13. mail pieces and linking such messages to delivery status information relating to said mail

14. pieces as an attachment to said linked information, said attachment consisting of the one or

15. more messages from the senders of the mail pieces;

16.   iv.   providing in said linked information listings of the delivery status

17. information for the mail pieces directed to or sent from respective users that are associated

18. with the user identifiers; and

19.   v.   providing a table displayable on a web site that is accessible by a user,

20. setting out a substantially complete record of a transaction from start to finish, including the

21. date of shipment of an ordered article, the date of delivery of an ordered article to the user,

22. and the return delivery of the article to the company, the dates of the debiting or crediting of

23. payment for the ordered article with the user's credit or debit card; and

24.   vi.   providing transaction information from billing companies that

25. bill the user regularly for supplying goods or services, and supplying the user with a

26. confirmation of receipt of a payment by the billing company; and

27

28 B. one or more browsers or client executables through which the respective users

29 associated with the user identifiers access linked information.

1 Claims 3 - 20. (Cancelled)

1 21. (Currently Amended) Computer executable instructions embodied in a <u>non-</u>

2 <u>transitory</u> computer readable medium, comprising instructions causing the computer to

3 perform:

4 A. associating respective users with user identifiers;

5 B. acquiring information from one or more mail piece sources, postal service and

6 delivery companies <u>including in such information, one or more user identifiers,</u> <u>regarding</u>

7 ~~about~~ a mail piece ~~and associating that mail piece with a user identifier~~;

8 C. creating linked information for each mail piece<u>, said linked</u> ~~containing mail piece~~

9 information <u>associating a mail piece with a respective user identifier and</u> providing ~~the~~ <u>a</u>

10 user with <u>such information so as to allow the user</u> ~~the capability~~ to track and trace mail pieces

11 sent to or from one or more addresses;

12 ~~;~~

13 D. receiving <u>said</u> linked information from one or more mail piece delivery companies

14 and associating <u>said</u> linked information ~~relating to those respective mail pieces that are~~

15 ~~assigned to the~~ <u>with</u> respective user identifiers that are associated with the users to which the

16 <u>mail pieces are directed</u> ~~user identifiers are associated~~;

17 E. receiving information concerning ~~the contents of the~~ respective mail pieces from the

18 senders of the respective mail pieces;

19 F. <u>generating a user's personal web page, and</u> displaying said linked information on ~~a~~

20 <u>the</u> user's personal web page ~~consisting of the information concerning the contents of the~~

21 ~~respective mail pieces~~; and

22 G. providing on said user's personal web page a graphical user interface adapted to<u>:</u>

23   i.   notify the respective users of the delivery status of the respective mail pieces,

24 the graphical user interface being configured to:

25   i~~i~~.   provide ~~the~~ mail piece delivery status information, and one or more web pages

26 using which the user may pay bills and store and maintain ~~-~~billing information, status

27 information about whether a credit or debit card transaction are completed, and information

28 concerning confirmation payment receipt that is linked to the user identifiers that are

29 associated with the respective users, and

30   iii.   provide to the respective users the information concerning the contents of the

31 respective mail pieces.

1 22.   (Currently Amended) Computer executable instructions, embodied in a non-

2 transitory computer readable medium, comprising instructions causing the computer to

3 perform:

4 A.   associating respective users with respective user identifiers;

5 B.   acquiring information from one or more mail piece sources, postal services and

6 delivery companies, including in such information, one or more user identifiers and creating

7 linked information for each mail piece containing mail piece delivery status information and

8 associating the linked information with said user identifiers;

9 C.   associating with ~~the~~ a respective user's ~~s~~ ~~identifiers~~ respective mail pieces directed to

10 ~~or sent by~~ the respective user~~s~~, and informing the user of an incoming mail piece;

11 D.   receiving mail piece delivery status information from one or more mail piece delivery

12 companies ~~and displaying said information on a user's personal web site~~ and linking the

13 mail piece delivery status information, relating to ~~the~~ respective mail pieces, to the respective

14 user identifiers that are associated with the users to which the mail pieces are associated and

15 displaying said information on that user's personal web page;

16 E.   receiving images of at least a portion of ~~the~~ contents of the respective mail pieces

17 from ~~the~~ respective senders ~~and displaying said images on said user's personal web page~~ and

18 linking to the delivery status information an attachment consisting of the images of at least a

19 portion of the contents of the respective mail pieces and displaying said images on said user's

20 personal web page; ~~and~~

21 F.   providing to respective users listings of the respective mail pieces and the mail piece

22 delivery status information that are linked to the user identifiers that correspond to the

23 respective users; and

24 G.   providing on said personal web page a graphical user interface ~~connected~~ configured

25 to:

26   i.   notify the respective users of the delivery status of the

27 associated respective mail pieces; ~~and~~

28   ii.   provide to the users the images of at least a portion of the

29 contents of the respective mail pieces; and~~.~~

30 _____ iii.   allow the user to pay bills and store and maintain billing

31 information, and to provide status information about whether a credit or debit card

32 transaction is completed, and to provide information about whether receipt of a payment has

33 occurred.

1   23.   (Currently Amended)   The computer executable instructions as defined in Claim 22

2   further comprising:

3   providing a graphical user interface ~~connected~~ configured to:

4   provide links, for the user, to web pages of ~~to~~ respective mail piece delivery

5   companies and respective ~~sellers~~ senders of said mail pieces allowing the user to perform at

6   least one of: sending or receiving a message, receiving or paying a bill, and verifying

7   information based upon a digital signature.

1   24.   (Currently Amended) The computer executable instructions of claim 22 in which one

2   or more messages from one or more of the senders or the mail delivery companies are

3   received and the interface is further configured to provide the one or more messages

4   associated with the respective mail pieces.

25. – 27. (Cancelled)

28.   (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable medium ~~Computer-~~ ~~readable memory~~ comprising computer program instructions for use in providing mail piece tracking and tracing, the instructions when executed causing:

   A.   one or more servers to:

      i.   acquire information from one or more mail piece sources, postal services and delivery companies, including in such information, one or more user identifiers, and creating linked information for each mail piece containing mail piece delivery status information and associating said linked information about the mail piece with respective user identifiers to thereby inform the user of an incoming mail piece, providing the user with the capability to track and trace mail pieces sent to or from one or more addresses;

      ii.   receive messages from ~~the~~ senders of the respective mail pieces and adding to said linked information delivery status information and an attachment consisting of the messages from the senders of the respective mail pieces;.

      iii.   produce for a user, a personal web page including listings of the linked information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers; and

      iv.   provide in said user's personal web page access to the messages in the listings of the delivery status information; and

   B.   one or more browsers to provide to the respective users associated with the user identifiers access to the listings of the linked information and the messages.

29.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~memory~~ medium as defined in Claim 28 further comprising:

   said one or more servers being configured to:

   ~~i.~~

   associate with the linked information, transaction information with the listings of the delivery status information on said user's personal web page allowing the user to perform at least one of: sending or receiving a message, receiving or paying a bill, and verifying information based upon a digital signature.;

30.   (Currently Amended) The computer-readable ~~memory~~ medium as defined in Claim 28 further comprising:

~~;~~   said one or more servers being configured to:

produce listings of the mail piece delivery status information for mail pieces directed to the respective users that correspond to the user identifiers; and

include in the listings the information relating to the contents of the respective mail pieces. ~~; and~~

31. – 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) A mail piece tracing and tracking system comprising:

one or more servers associated with multiple package delivery systems coupled to a network, said one or more servers interfacing with a database storing user identifiers, and said one or more servers associating a user identifier with linked information about packages that are being sent to or from a user of the system using said package delivery systems, said linked information being associated with one or more user identifiers, the server being further configured to store information provided by a user during a postal transaction session as a plurality of queued or stacked messages, the server further maintaining an index, sorted by user identifier attribute, allowing messages associated with a given user to be accessed; and

a plurality of nodes connected by said network to one or more of said servers, said nodes running software executables that communicate directly with the server, said nodes also having access to web browsers allowing the user to login in and inspect linked information about each package that has been assigned to its user identifier providing the user with the capability to track and trace mail pieces sent to or from one or more addresses, at one session, or the user may interrupt a session and continue the session at a later time.

49. (New) The mail piece tracing and tracking system as defined in Claim 48 further comprising:

3   said node in reconstructing a session uses associated queued messages to

4   present to a user one or more screens, templates and/or wizards that allow the session to

5   be continued from a point at which the user last communicated with the server.

1   50. (New)   The mail piece tracing and tracking system as defined in Claim 48 further

2   comprising said node maintaining an up-to-date message queue or store for the session

3   that is associated with the assigned user identifier such that the session may be readily

4   transferred to a different terminal such that the user can continue or complete the session

5   at said different terminal.

1   51. (New)   The mail piece tracking system as defined in Claim 2 wherein said billing

2   companies include utility companies, banks, magazine subscriptions and shops.